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## A new species of *Rullierinereis* and new records of Nereididae from sublittoral sandy bottoms off Lanzarote (Canary Islands)

JORGE NÚÑEZ and MARÍA DEL CARMEN BRITO

Laboratorio de Bentos, Departamento de Biología Animal (Zoología), Facultad de Biología, Universidad de La Laguna,  
38206 La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. E-mail: janunez@ull.es

**SUMMARY:** *Rullierinereis ancornunezi* n. sp., collected from sandy and maërl bottoms from 19-55 m depth around Lanzarote island, is described. The new taxon is characterized by having a reduced or absent upper notopodial ligule in biramous parapodia of chaetigers 3-9 and in the middle region from chaetiger 26 onwards, and also by the shape of the homogomph notopodial falciger blade, which is short and serrated. A comparison with morphologically similar species is made. Other nereidid species collected were: *Nereis lamellosa* Ehlers, 1864, *Nereis rava* Ehlers, 1864, *Neanthes caudata* (Delle Chiaje, 1827) and *Neanthes rubicunda* (Ehlers, 1864). A map of the distribution of these species is presented.

**Keywords:** Polychaeta, Nereididae, *Rullierinereis*, new species, Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

**RESUMEN:** UNA NUEVA ESPECIE DE RULLIERINEREIS Y NUEVOS REGISTROS DE NEREIDIDAE PROCEDENTES DE FONDOS SUBLITORALES ARENOSOS EN LOS ALREDEDORES DE LANZAROTE (ISLAS CANARIAS). – *Rullierinereis ancornunezi* n. sp., colectado en fondos arenosos y de maërl a 19-55 m de profundidad en la isla de Lanzarote, es descrito. El nuevo táxon se caracteriza por tener reducida la lígula superior notopodial de los parápodos birrámeos desde los setígeros 3-9 y en la región media, y por la forma de la seda falcígera homogonfa notopodial, ya que la hoja es corta y espinulada. Se realiza una comparación con especies morfológicamente similares. Otras especies de nereídidos encontradas fueron: *Nereis lamellosa* Ehlers, 1864, *Nereis rava* Ehlers, 1864, *Neanthes caudata* (Delle Chiaje, 1827) and *Neanthes rubicunda* (Ehlers, 1864). Se presenta un mapa de la distribución de estas especies en la isla de Lanzarote.

**Palabras clave:** Polychaeta, Nereididae, *Rullierinereis*, nueva especie, Lanzarote, Islas Canarias.

### INTRODUCTION

Nereididae is one of the macrofaunal polychaete groups well represented in intertidal, subtidal and deep water sediments (Fauchald, 1977). In the Canaries, studies on this family are all from intertidal and shallow waters (Núñez, 1993; 1995; Núñez *et al.*, 1981; 1984; 2000; Pascual *et al.*, 2003), and currently 18 species are known from this area (Núñez, 2003).

In this investigation the nereidid species collected during the years 2000 and 2001 in soft bottoms from Lanzarote, the northernmost island of the Canary Archipelago, were studied (Fig. 3). The survey was undertaken off Lanzarote, La Graciosa and Alegranza by the “Centro de Investigaciones Submarinas S.A.” (C.I.S.) project research “Estudio ecocartográfico del litoral de Lanzarote, La Graciosa y Alegranza (Gran Canaria)” n° 28-1326/99, for the Spanish Ministry of Environment.

TABLE 1. – Station data.

Station	Coordinates		Depth m	Habitat	Station	Coordinates		Depth m	Habitat
	UTM X	UTM Y				UTM X	UTM Y		
D-6	646009	3233999	15	medium sand	D-166	648399	3235540	20	medium sand
D-9	645032	3232445	10	medium sand	D-167	648254	3235253	18	fine sand
D-10	644498	3232501	12	medium sand	D-171	644444	3229502	15	medium sand
D-16	643001	3231999	30	fine medium sand	D-181	643997	3231497	20	fine sand
D-33	643505	3228495	20	fine medium sand	D-182	644494	3231559	13	fine sand
D-35	644443	3228715	5	fine sand	D-183	644267	3230961	17	coarse sand
D-37	642997	3237995	25	fine medium sand	D-190	640993	3226944	29	coarse sand
D-38	642495	3238026	27	fine medium sand	D-191	641008	3228967	36	coarse sand
D-41	640922	3227821	32	rocky	D-193	648498	3241002	50	medium sand
D-42	641495	3227497	33	coarse sand	D-195	647497	3240749	42	fine sand
D-43	641997	3227498	30	fine medium sand	D-200	645496	3241501	26	medium sand
D-45	642998	3227497	22	fine medium sand	D-205	646995	3241511	43	fine sand
D-47	642503	3227000	24	fine medium sand	D-206	647534	3241811	49	medium sand
D-48	642003	3226991	29	fine medium sand	D-207	645251	3241504	24	medium sand with maërl
D-49	641997	3226504	28	medium sand	D-209	647498	3241999	45	medium sand with maërl
D-51	642998	3226496	17	fine medium sand	D-212	648503	3243000	54	medium sand
D-55	643263	3225000	8	fine medium sand	D-219	646497	3242497	43	medium sand
D-56	643003	3225003	12	fine sand	D-220	646001	3242501	42	medium sand
D-57	642502	3225000	18	fine sand	D-221	644999	3242502	32	medium sand
D-58	642502	3225500	19	fine medium sand	D-290	654450	3231861	33	medium sand with maërl
D-59	641990	3225510	24	medium sand	D-291	655001	3232004	52	medium sand
D-65	639599	3229992	48	medium sand	D-292	655098	3231596	54	medium sand
D-75	643992	3239505	8	medium sand	D-294	655000	3230501	47	medium sand
D-82	643004	3239505	35	medium sand	D-296	655500	3230000	53	medium sand with maërl
D-83	642498	3238894	47	medium sand	D-297	655500	3230000	52	medium sand with maërl
D-84	642998	3238999	35	medium sand	D-310	653496	3225501	32	medium sand with maërl
D-85	643513	3239066	16	medium sand	D-311	654003	3226500	34	medium sand with maërl
D-86	643067	3237631	34	medium sand	D-314	654600	3228097	34	coarse sand
D-87	642501	3237499	41	medium sand	D-316	655501	3228503	48	medium sand with maërl
D-88	642014	3237212	56	fine sand	D-320	655502	3228996	50	coarse sand with maërl
D-89	642021	3235860	45	medium sand	D-321	655000	3229601	42	medium sand with maërl
D-90	642918	3235607	45	fine sand	D-366	644499	3204999	44	fine sand
D-92	641697	3231502	38	medium sand	D-398	634982	3198284	54	fine sand
D-93	642193	3231557	37	fine medium sand	D-412	644020	3204502	44	fine sand
D-94	642503	3231497	36	fine medium sand	D-437	649996	3214243	36	coarse sand
D-95	642999	3231497	33	fine medium sand	D-525	620000	3191000	23	medium sand
D-97	642998	3231000	32	fine medium sand	D-530	694980	3190000	30	medium sand
D-98	642502	3231003	34	fine medium sand	D-533	619302	3188450	53	medium sand
D-99	641000	3223002	13	fine sand	D-536	619138	3187023	54	medium sand
D-101	640001	3223001	15	fine sand	D-537	619040	3186521	54	medium sand
D-105	638500	3224001	27	fine medium sand	D-540	619002	3186502	50	medium sand
D-107	638998	3223500	22	medium sand	D-542	619001	3187502	40	medium sand
D-109	639502	3224000	23	fine medium sand	D-543	619001	3187999	38	medium sand
D-117	643464	3229115	24	fine medium sand	D-547	619102	3190149	24	medium sand
D-119	649504	3238502	49	medium sand	D-584	616999	3188502	36	medium sand
D-123	649999	3238002	54	medium sand	D-625	615501	3189501	35	medium sand
D-124	649498	3238002	49	medium sand	D-626	615500	3189001	36	medium sand
D-134	649501	3239001	50	medium sand	D-628	615499	3188002	36	medium sand
D-137	649999	3239499	55	medium sand	D-630	615000	3188000	37	medium sand
D-147	649502	3237499	50	medium sand	D-631	614999	3187502	37	medium sand
D-148	649502	3238000	49	medium sand	D-632	615003	3186998	38	medium sand
D-150	648500	3236996	32	coarse sand	D-633	615498	3187001	39	medium sand
D-151	648996	3237001	38	coarse sand	D-634	615498	3186498	39	medium sand
D-152	649498	3237000	47	fine sand	D-635	617499	3185502	37	medium sand
D-157	647501	3236003	23	medium sand	D-660	614500	3190004	37	medium sand
D-158	648997	3240500	52	fine sand	D-676	613500	3191498	25	medium sand
D-160	647999	3240502	45	medium sand	D-704	612001	3191999	31	medium sand
D-163	647500	3235496	19	medium sand					

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 790 samples from about 5-50 m depth were dredged from around the coasts of Lanzarote, La Graciosa and Alegranza. A modified Foster-type dredge of 28 litres capacity was used. The sandy samples were washed and screened through a 1 mm mesh

sieve. The specimens were fixed with 10% formaldehyde in seawater, and were subsequently transferred to 70% ethanol. One specimen was examined with scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Jeol JSM-6300), after critical point drying and gold sputtering.

The material was deposited in the collections of the Department of Animal Biology of the University

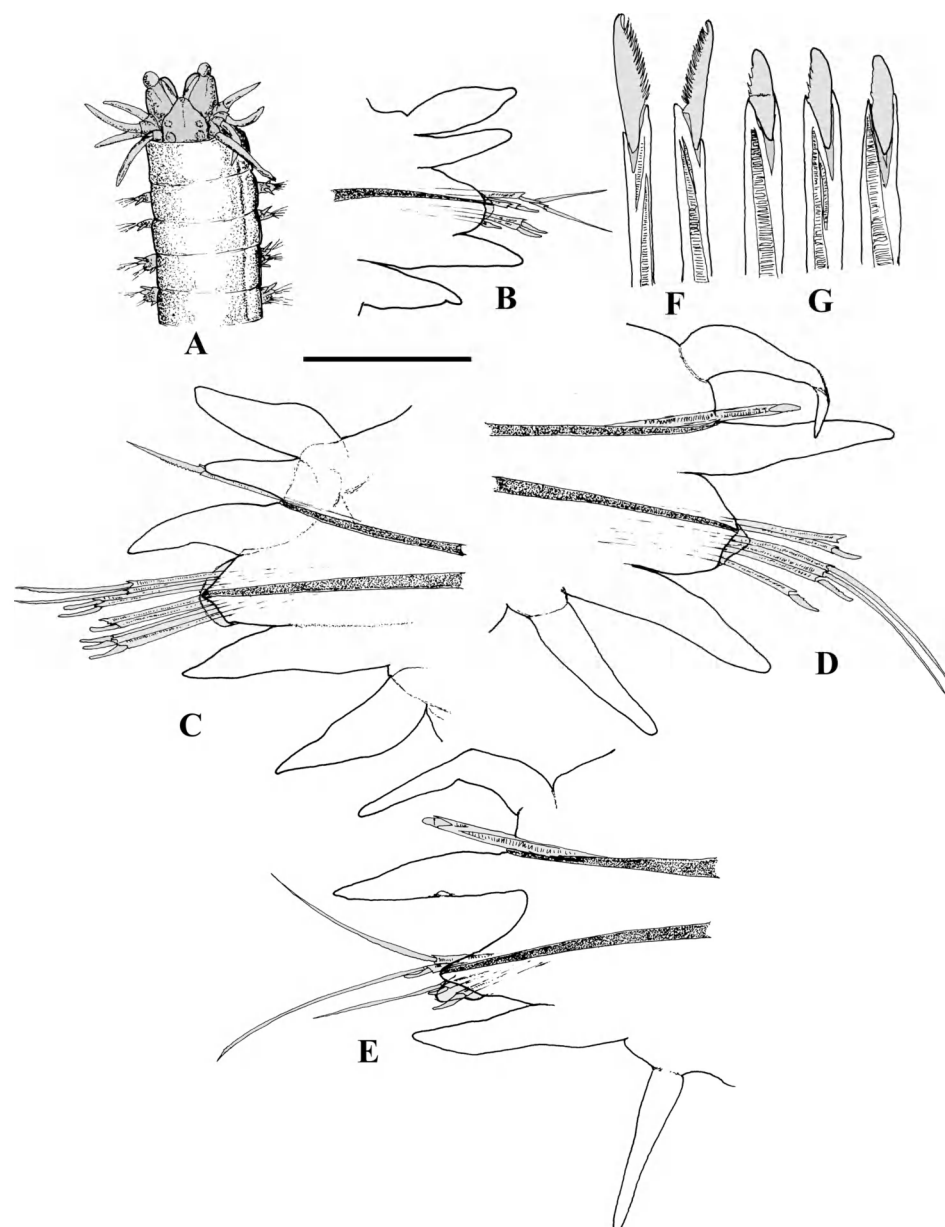


FIG. 1. – A, anterior end dorsal view; B, uniramous parapodium, chaetiger 2, anterior view; C, biramous parapodium, chaetiger 15, posterior view; D, parapodium, chaetiger 30, posterior view; E, parapodium, chaetiger 49, posterior view; F, heterogomph falcigerous neurochaetae; G, Homogomph falcigerous notochaetae. Scale bar for all figures: A = 1.3 mm; B-E = 125  $\mu$ m; F,G = 42  $\mu$ m.

of La Laguna (DBAULL) and the Museum of Natural Sciences of Tenerife (TFMC).

## RESULTS

A total of 4,155 polychaete specimens belonging to 107 species were identified. Five species and 486 specimens were nereidids. *Neanthes rubicunda* (Ehlers, 1864) was the most abundant species with 476 specimens. The nereidid specimens were collected from 115 stations (see Table 1).

### *Rullierinereis ancornunezi* n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2, 3A)

*Type locality.* Canary Islands, Lanzarote.

*Type material.* Holotype: TFMCBMAN/000220, sta. D-167. Paratypes: DBAULL PO-0065, sta. D-65, 1 spec.; DBAULL PO-0137, sta. D-137, 1 spec.; DBAULL PO-0294, sta. D-294, 1 spec.; DBAULL PO-0296, sta. D-296, 1 spec.; DBAULL PO-0633, 1 spec.; TFMCBMAN/000221, sta. D-660, 1 spec. (see distribution map Fig. 3A).

*Additional material.* – Canary Islands, Tenerife, Granadilla coast, DBAULL PO-ST77A, 1 spec., May 2004; DBAULL PO-ST81B, 1 spec., May 2004; DBAULL PO-ST82B, 1 spec., May 2004. La Gomera, Punta Llana, DBAULL PO-022005, 1 spec., Feb. 2005.

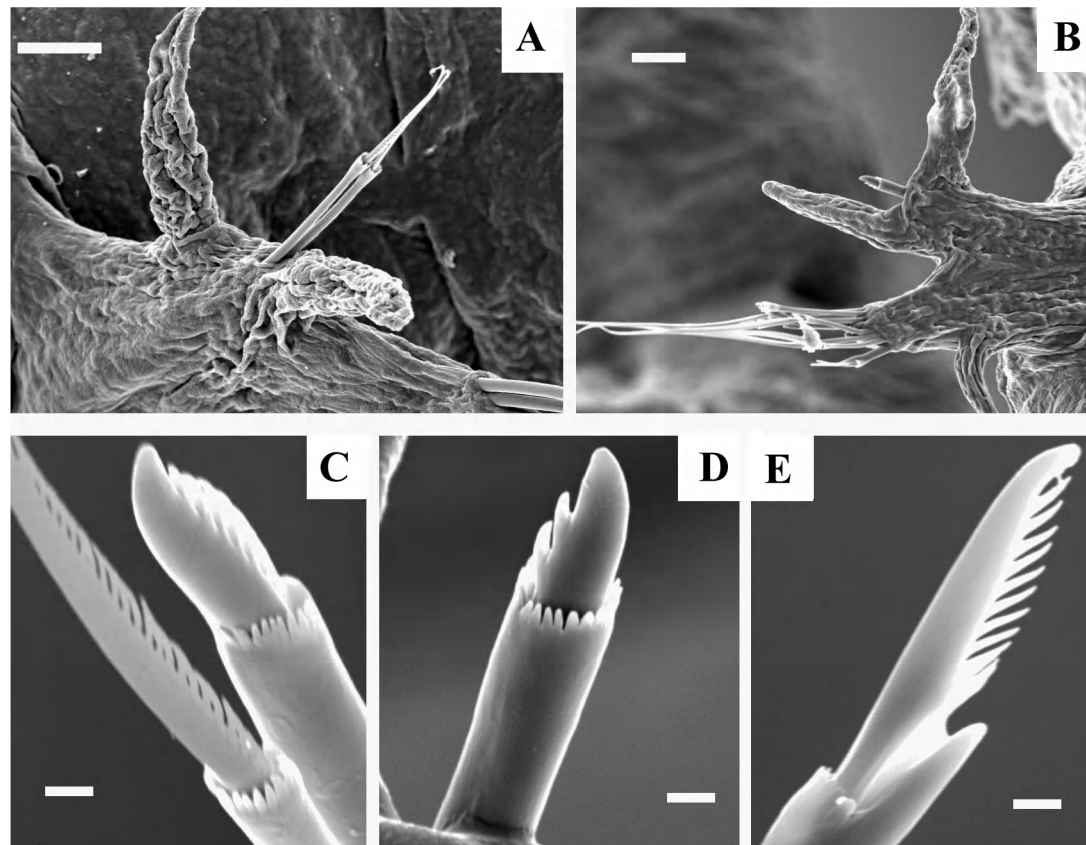


FIG. 2. – A, biramous parapodium, middle region; B, biramous parapodium, posterior region; C, homogomph spiniger and falciger, notopodial chaetae from middle region; D, homogomph falciger, notopodial chaeta from posterior region; E, heterogomph falciger, neuropodial chaeta (SEM photographs). Scale bar: A, B = 20  $\mu$ m; C-E = 2  $\mu$ m.

**Description.** Holotype incomplete posteriorly with 75 chaetigers, 25 mm long and 0.85 mm wide at the second chaetiger (excluding parapodia and chaetae). Paratypes incomplete posteriorly with 56-81 chaetigers, 9.4-26 mm long and 0.65-0.75 mm wide. Alcohol-preserved specimen lacking pigment patterns. Prostomium subpyriform as long as wide, with two frontal slender antennae, slightly shorter than palps. Palps broad and globose, biarticulate, with globular palpostyles. Eyes in square arrangement, poorly pigmented, posterior pair slightly larger than anterior pair (Fig. 1A). Achaetous segment as wide as first chaetiger, with four pairs of short tentacular cirri, the longest pair extending posteriorly to chaetigers 3-4. Pharynx without paragnaths or papillae. Jaws dark, with six stout large teeth. Parapodia of first two chaetigers uniramous (Fig. 1B), with the dorsal and ventral cirri large and thick; only one notopodial ligule and neuropodium with acicular lobes and one ventral ligule. Parapodia biramous from the third chaetiger, chaetigers 3-5 lack an upper notopodial ligule and in chaetigers 6-9 the ligule is incipient. From approximately chaetigers

10-15 two notopodial ligules present, the upper ligule shorter (Fig. 1C). Dorsal cirri thick, longer than upper ligule and shorter than lower ligule. Neuropodia similar to uniramous parapodia, with two subtriangular acicular lobes shorter than ventral ligule. Ventral cirri thick, slightly shorter than ventral ligule. Parapodia of middle and posterior regions modified, lacking an upper notopodial ligule, lower notopodial ligule well developed, conical-shaped, slightly longer than dorsal cirri. From chaetigers 16-25 the upper notopodial ligule is reduced or absent (Fig. 2A). Starting from chaetiger 26 the upper notopodial ligule is incipient and on chaetigers 30-45 the ligule disappears (Figs. 1D,E; 2B). Neuropodia with subtriangular acicular lobes, shorter than lower neuropodial ligule. Ventral cirri subulate, shorter than lower ligule. Uniramous parapodia with few chaetae, upper bundle of neuropodia with 0-2 homogomph spinigers and 2-3 heterogomph falcigers; lower bundle with 2-3 heterogomph falcigers. Biramous parapodia also with few notopodial chaetae; chaetigers 3-14 or 16 with only 1-2 homogomph spinigers, from chaetigers 15 or 17



generally one stout homogomph falciger with short blade distally blunt and internal margin with 3-6 proximal spines (Figs. 1G; 2C,D). Upper bundle of neuropodia with 1-4 homogomph spinigers and 1-2 heterogomph falcigers; lower bundle with 1-3 heterogomph spinigers and 1-4 heterogomph falcigers. Heterogomph falcigers of similar shape along the body, with slender and strongly serrated blades (Fig. 1F; 2E). Pygidium unknown.

*Etymology.* The species name *ancornunezi* is dedicated to Ancor Núñez-Brito, the authors' son.

*Remarks.* The genus *Rullierinereis* Pettibone, 1971 (Pettibone, 1971) belongs to the subfamily Gymnonereidinae (Fitzhugh, 1987). It is characterised by the pharynx being without paragnaths and papillae (exceptionally with papillae on the oral ring); biramous, notopodia with two ligules, in some species the upper ligule can be reduced or absent (fused with dorsal cirri); anterior parapodia with

notochaetae homogomph spinigers and posteriorly replaced by homogomph falcigers. A total of 14 species are currently known in this genus, of which *Rullierinereis tenerifensis* Núñez, Brito & Bacallado, 1984 (Núñez *et al.*, 1984) is a junior synonym of *Eunereis longissima* (Johnston, 1840).

Three species, *R. bahamensis* (Hartmann-Schröder, 1958) (Hartmann-Schröder, 1958), *R. zebra* (Rullier, 1963) (Rullier, 1963) and *R. auxiliadorae* Santos and Lana, 2001 (Santos and Lana, 2001) have reduced upper notopodial ligules on biramous parapodia similar to *R. ancornunezi* n. sp.. However, *R. bahamensis* lacks the upper notopodial ligule from chaetiger 3, *R. zebra* lacks the upper ligule in the posterior region and *R. auxiliadorae* lacks the ligule in all chaetigers, while *R. ancornunezi* lacks the upper ligule on chaetigers 3-9 and in the middle-posterior region from chaetiger 26. The species also can be differentiated by the shape of the homogomph notopodial falciger, which is smooth in *R. zebra*, toothed in *R. bahamensis* and *R. auxiliadorae*, while in *R. ancornunezi* it is serrated with up to 6 spines.

*Distribution.* Lanzarote, Tenerife, La Gomera (Canary Islands) (Fig. 3A).

*Nereis lamellosa* Ehlers, 1864  
(Fig. 3A)

*Nereis lamellosa* Ehlers, 1864. *Borstenwürmer Syst. Anat. Unters. Dargestellt:* 564.

*Material examined.* Canary Islands, Lanzarote, sta. D-38, 1 spec (see distribution map Fig. 3A).

*Distribution.* Mediterranean Sea: Sicily and Adriatic. Western Atlantic: east coast of North America. Eastern Atlantic from Cantabrian Sea to Ivory coast. South Africa. Gulf of California.

*Nereis rava* Ehlers, 1864  
(Fig. 3A)

*Nereis rava* Ehlers, 1864. *Borstenwürmer Syst. Anat. Unters. Dargestellt:* 517

*Material examined.* – Canary Islands, Lanzarote, sta. D-87, 1 spec.; sta. D-90, 1 spec (see distribution map Fig. 3A).

*Distribution.* Atlantic Ocean: North Sea to Cape Verde Islands; in the Macaronesian region has been recorded from the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands. Mediterranean and Black Sea.

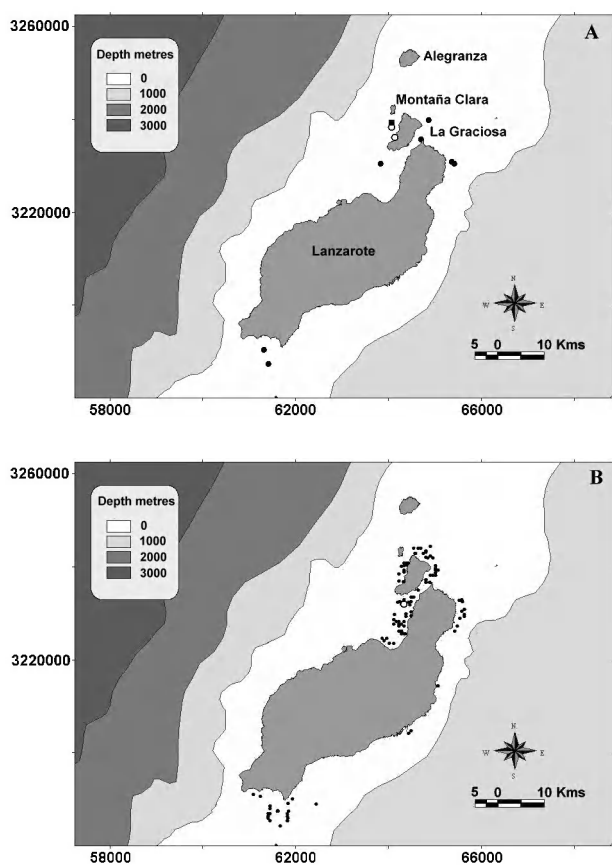


FIG. 3. – A, distribution map of: *Rullierinereis ancornunezi* n. sp. (black circle); *Nereis lamellosa* Ehlers, 1864 (black square) and *Nereis rava* Ehlers, 1864 (open circle); B, distribution map of: *Neanthes caudata* (Delle Chiaje, 1827) (open circle) and *Neanthes rubicunda* (Ehlers, 1864) (black circle).

***Neanthes caudata*** (Delle Chiaje, 1827)

*Spio caudatus* Delle Chiaje, 1827. *Mem. Stor. Notomia Anim. Senza Vertebr. Regno Napoli*. 2(2): 426

*Material examined.* Canary Islands, Lanzarote, sta. D-97, 1 spec (see distribution map Fig. 3B).

*Distribution.* Eastern Atlantic: English Channel to South Africa. Western Atlantic: Massachusetts to Gulf of Mexico and Cuba. Mediterranean and Red Sea. Eastern Pacific: Southern California to Mexico. Western Pacific: Japan to Australia and New Zealand.

***Neanthes rubicunda*** (Ehlers, 1864)

*Nereis rubicunda* Ehlers, 1864. *Borstenwürmer Syst. Anat. Unters. Dargestellt*: 529

*Material examined.* Canary Islands, Lanzarote, sta. D-6, 1 spec.; sta. D-9, 1 spec.; sta. D-10, 3 spec.; sta. D-16, 1 spec.; sta. D-27, 1 spec.; sta. D-28, 1 spec.; sta. D-33, 1 spec.; sta. D-35, 1 spec.; sta. D-37, 1 spec.; sta. D-41, 1 spec.; sta. D-42, 1 spec.; sta. D-43, 1 spec.; sta. D-45, 2 spec.; sta. D-47, 3 spec.; sta. D-48, 9 spec.; sta. D-49, 6 spec.; sta. D-51, 20 spec.; sta. D-55, 1 spec.; sta. D-56, 8 spec.; sta. D-57, 20 spec.; sta. D-58, 51 spec.; sta. D-59, 44 spec.; sta. D-75, 1 spec.; sta. D-82, 1 spec.; sta. D-83, 1 spec.; sta. D-84, 11 spec.; sta. D-85, 1 spec.; sta. D-86, 1 spec.; sta. D-88, 1 spec.; sta. D-89, 1 spec.; sta. D-90, 3 spec.; sta. D-92, 2 spec.; sta. D-93, 2 spec.; sta. D-94, 2 spec.; sta. D-95, 5 spec.; sta. D-98, 3 spec.; sta. D-99, 3 spec.; sta. D-101, 1 spec.; sta. D-105, 1 spec.; sta. D-107, 4 spec.; sta. D-109, 2 spec.; sta. D-117, 2 spec.; sta. D-119, 1 spec.; sta. D-123, 1 spec.; sta. D-134, 1 spec.; sta. D-147, 1 spec.; sta. D-148, 5 spec.; sta. D-150, 9 spec.; sta. D-151, 8 spec.; sta. D-152, 1 spec.; sta. D-157, 1 spec.; sta. D-158, 2 spec.; sta. D-160, 15 spec.; sta. D-163, 3 spec.; sta. D-166, 4 spec.; sta. D-171, 2 spec.; sta. D-181, 2 spec.; sta. D-182, 2 spec.; sta. D-183, 2 spec.; sta. D-190, 2 spec.; sta. D-191, 4 spec.; sta. D-193, 2 spec.; sta. D-195, 1 spec.; sta. D-200, 1 spec.; sta. D-205, 1 spec.; sta. D-206, 17 spec.; sta. D-207, 15 spec.; sta. D-209, 1 spec.; sta. D-212, 5 spec.; sta. D-219, 1 spec.; sta. D-220, 4 spec.; sta. D-221, 3 spec.; sta. D-290, 16 spec.; sta. D-291, 3 spec.; sta. D-292, 1 spec.; sta. D-296, 2 spec.; sta. D-297, 2 spec.; sta. D-310, 1 spec.; sta. D-311, 6 spec.; sta. D-314, 1 spec.; sta. D-316, 1 spec.; sta. D-320, 1 spec.; sta. D-321, 1 spec.; sta. D-366, 1 spec.; sta. D-398, 1 spec.; sta. D-412, 1 spec.; sta. D-437, 2 spec.; sta. D-525, 4 spec.; sta. D-530, 1 spec.; sta. D-533, 4 spec.; sta. D-536, 5 spec.; sta. D-537, 2 spec.; sta. D-540, 1 spec.; sta. D-542, 1 spec.; sta. D-543, 2 spec.; sta. D-547, 8 spec.; sta. D-584, 2 spec.; sta. D-625, 2 spec.; sta. D-626, 1 spec.; sta. D-628, 2 spec.; sta. D-630, 1 spec.; sta. D-631, 37 spec.; sta. D-632, 6 spec.; sta. D-634, 8 spec.; sta. D-635, 4 spec.; sta. D-676, 1 spec.; sta. D-704, 1 spec (see distribution map Fig. 3B).

*Distribution.* Atlantic Ocean: Cantabrian Sea, Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands. Western Mediterranean. Indian Ocean: Malay Archipelago, Maldives and Amirantes Islands.

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